

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An access control device for controlling an access from a resource use device to a resource providing device for using a resource provided by the resource providing device, the access control device comprising:

a communication unit that directly communicates with the resource use device and the resource providing device;

an access permission unit that instructs the resource providing device via the communication unit to permit an access from the resource use device;

a storage unit that stores information on the resource use device which has been permitted to access the resource providing device by the access permission unit as management information;

an existence check unit that transmits an existence check instruction to the resource use device of which the management information is stored in the storage unit, that is configured to receive a response to the existence check instruction from the resource use device, and that confirms whether or not a response to the existence check instruction is received from the resource use device which has been permitted to access the resource providing device by the access permission unit, via the communication unit; and ~~checks a communication state with the resource use device of which the management information is stored in the storage unit, via the communication unit; and~~

an access discard unit that instructs the resource providing device via the communication unit to reject an access from the resource use device from which a response to the existence check instruction is not received by the existence check unit. ~~device, with which communication is determined to be disconnected by the existence check unit.~~

2. (Previously Presented) An access control device according to claim 1, wherein the access discard unit deletes the information on the resource use device, with which communication is determined to be disconnected, from the storage unit.

3. (Previously Presented) An access control device according to claim 1, wherein the information on the resource use device includes information that identifies the resource use device.

4. (Previously Presented) An access control device according to claim 1, wherein the information on the resource use device includes information that identifies the resource use device and information that identifies the resource providing device that accepts an access from the resource use device.

5. (Previously Presented) An access control device according to claim 3, wherein the information on the resource use device includes information on a command issued by the resource use device when accessing the resource providing device.

6. (Previously Presented) An access control device according to claim 1, wherein the access permission unit notifies the resource providing device, via the communication unit, of the information on the resource use device to be permitted access.

7. (Previously Presented) An access control device according to claim 1, wherein the access discard unit notifies the resource providing device, via the communication unit, of the

information on the resource use device, with which communication is determined to be disconnected.

8. (Previously Presented) An access control device according to claim 1, further comprising an existence check response unit that responds to the resource providing device via the communication unit when a communication state check request from the resource providing device is received via the communication unit.

9. (Previously Presented) An access control device according to claim 1, wherein the communication unit communicates with the resource use device via wireless communication of which a communication range is limited to a predetermined range.

10. (Currently Amended) A resource providing device for accepting an access from a resource use device permitted to access by an access control device and providing a resource, the resource providing device comprising:

a communication unit that directly communicates with the access control device and the resource use device;

a storage unit that stores information on the resource use device, based on an instruction given by the access control device via the communication unit, as management information, the information on the resource use device including information that identifies the resource use device and that identifies the access control device which has permitted the resource use device to access;

an access permission unit that permits an access from the resource use device of which the management information is stored in the storage unit;

an existence check unit that transmits an existence check instruction to the access control device and is configured to receive a response to the existence check instruction from the access control device, and that confirms whether or not a response to the existence check instruction is received from the access control device, via the communication unit; and ~~checks a communication state with the access control device via the communication unit; and~~

an access rejection unit that rejects an access from the resource use device which has been permitted to access by the access control device from which a response to the existence check instruction is not received by the existence check unit. ~~with which communication is determined to be disconnected by the existence check unit.~~

11. (Previously Presented) A resource providing device according to claim 10, wherein the access rejecting unit deletes the information on the resource use device, from the storage unit, which has been permitted to access by the access control device with which communication is determined to be disconnected.

12-13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) A resource providing device according to claim 10, wherein the information on the resource use device further includes information on a command issued by the resource use device when accessing the resource providing device.

15. (Previously Presented) A resource providing device according to claim 10, wherein the access rejecting unit rejects an access from the resource use device based on the instruction given by the access control device via the communication unit to reject an access from the resource use device.

16. (Previously Presented) A resource providing device according to claim 15, wherein the access rejecting unit deletes the information on the resource use device from the storage unit.

17. (Previously Presented) A resource providing device according to claim 10, wherein:
the communication unit communicates with the access control device via wireless communication of which a communication range is limited to a predetermined range.

18. (Currently Amended) An access control system comprising:

a resource providing device that provides a resource;

a resource use device that accesses the resource; and

an access control device that controls an access by the resource use device;

wherein the access control device includes:

a communication unit that directly communicates with the resource use device and the resource providing device,

an access permission unit that instructs the resource providing device via the communication unit to permit an access from the resource use device,

a storage unit that stores information on the resource use device permitted to access the resource providing device by the access permission unit as management information,

an existence check unit that transmits an existence check instruction to the resource use device of which the management information is stored in the storage unit, that is configured to receive a response to the existence check instruction from the resource use device, and that confirms whether or not a response to the existence check instruction is received from the resource use device which has been permitted to access the resource providing device by the access permission unit, via the communication unit; and ~~checks a communication state with the resource use device of which the management information is stored in the storage unit, via the communication unit; and~~

an access discard unit that instructs the resource providing device via the communication unit to reject an access from the resource use device from which a response to the existence check instruction is not received by the existence check unit; and ~~with which communication is determined to be disconnected by the existence check unit; and~~

the resource providing device includes:

a resource providing communication unit that directly communicates with the access control device and the resource use device,

a resource providing storing unit that stores information on the resource use device, based on an instruction given by the access control device via the resource providing communication unit, as management information,

a resource access permission unit that permits an access from the resource use device of which the management information is stored in the resource providing storage unit,

a resource providing existence check unit transmits an existence check instruction to the access control device and is configured to receive a response to the existence check instruction from the access control device, and that confirms whether or not a response to the existence check instruction is received from the access control device, via the communication unit; and ~~that checks a communication state with the access control device via the resource providing communication unit, and~~

an access rejection unit that rejects an access from the resource use device which has been permitted to access the resource providing unit by the access control device from which a response to the existence check instruction is not received ~~with which communication is determined to be disconnected~~ by the resource providing existence check unit, and that rejects an access from the resource use device based on the instruction given by the access control device via the resource providing communication unit.

19. (Previously Presented) An access control device according to claim 4, wherein the information on the resource use device includes information on a command issued by the resource use device when accessing the resource providing device.

20. (Previously Presented) The access control device according to claim 1, wherein the resource providing device constitutes a gateway to connect to the internet.

21. (Previously Presented) The access control device according to claim 1, wherein the access permission unit is operable to instruct the resource providing device to permit an access from the

resource use device before the resource use device has had any access to the resource providing device.

22. (Previously Presented) The access control device according to claim 1, wherein the communication unit of the access control device directly communicates with the resource use device independently from any communication with the resource providing device and independently from any communication through the resource providing device.

23. (Previously Presented) The access control device according to claim 1, wherein the access permission unit instructs the resource providing device to permit the resource use device to access the resource provided by the resource providing device which has not yet been accessed.